# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# POWER
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1934
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
AGREEMENT BY POWER MINISTER WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES
UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Power Minister has visited the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements signed by him; and

(c) the amount spent on the said foreign tours along with the details of benefits accrued to the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER ( SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA )

(a) to (c) : During the year 2001 the Minister of Power visited Austria, Canada,China and Brazil in response to the invitations from these Governments.

The visit to Canada and Austria had been scheduled for the former Minister of Power Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam in 2000, but could not take place. During the visits to Austria and Canada in 2001, cooperation and potential participation from these countries for the development of hydro power projects in India was the major focus during the discussions.

In September, 2001 the Minister of Power visited China in response to theinvitation of the Chinese government and had discussions on wide ranging issues including areas of possible cooperation. The Minister also used the occasion to acquire first hand understanding of how the Chinese were developing their power sector, finding the resources for their capacity addition programme of almost 20,000 MW a year, controlled costs of new projects, managed extension of the network to the rural areas and kept T&D losses low. The Minister also visited the Three Gorges hydro project which is the largest hydro project being developed in the world.

In October, 2001, the Minister visited Brazil at the invitation of theBrazilian Government. Private investment, power sector reforms and development of hydro power were the central focus of the discussion.

The Minister of Power visited France in May, 2001 to attend theInternational Energy Agency meeting and Argentina in October, 2001 to attend the meeting of the World Energy Council.

Signing of agreements were not envisaged during these visits.

The approximate expenditure incurred for these visits is Rs.11.48 lakhs.